



Radiological Society of Connecticut  
before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
House Bill 5208  
March 1, 2018

Sen. Larson, Sen. Kelly, Rep. Scanlon and members of the committee:

The Radiological Society of Connecticut (RSC) would like to offer comments on House Bill 5208, *An Act Concerning Mammograms, Breast Ultrasounds and Magnetic Resonance Imaging of Breasts*. I am Thomas Farquhar, M.D., and serve as legislative committee co-chair.

I would like to focus my comments on lines 1—12 and 57—68 of this bill, as they will solve a significant problem.

Right now, most women are entitled by law to have an annual mammogram at no cost. But if they have the test using breast tomosynthesis, they must pay for it. Why? Because breast tomosynthesis has a separate code than mammography, and thus has been deemed to not be a mammogram for insurance reimbursement purposes.

This is unfortunate because breast tomosynthesis is a wonderful test that can better detect the presence of small cancers. As a radiologist, I can tell you that this results in less uncertainty about what an image is showing. We have fewer patient call-backs for a retest as a result.

The simple fact is, breast tomosynthesis is a mammogram, although it is an advanced 3D version of the procedure. The portion of the bill I cited redefines mammogram to include a number of “healthcare common procedure codes” used by Medicare. One of the codes is breast tomosynthesis.

Please know that we have seen patients come into our offices intending to have their yearly exam utilizing breast tomosynthesis but decide not to do so when they find out they will have to pay the cost. They opt instead for a traditional mammogram, which, again, involves no cost sharing, or they cancel the appointment altogether.

House Bill 5208 solves this problem by including breast tomosynthesis within a new definition of mammogram. We urge you to pass this.

You took a very positive step in 2016 when you mandated that insurance plans cover breast tomosynthesis in Public Act 16-82. The changes proposed in House Bill 5208 will represent further progress in our efforts to ensure that women have access to the very best tests to screen for breast cancer. Thank you.